

## THE MIRTHFUL MUSE.

## THE ALTERNATIVE.

A dashing young man of Bellaire  
Loved a maiden exceedingly fair;  
One night her proud sire  
Failed to build them a fire,  
So they both climbed into the arm-chair.

## A SCOTCH EPITAPH.

Here lies the body of Alexander MacPherson,  
Who was a very extraordinary person;  
He was two yards high in his stocking feet,  
And kept his accoutrements clean and neat;  
He was slow  
At Waterloo  
Plumb through  
The gullet; it went in at his throat  
And came out at the back of his coat.

## A FAIR EXCHANGE.

They had just exchanged their rings,  
And sat on the sofa together,  
Discussing the subject of weather  
And several other things.

It was midnight ere he rose;  
And a little piece of court plaster,  
From her cheek of fair alabaster,  
Was stuck on the end of his nose.  
—Burlington Hawkeye.

## BEAUTIFUL SKIRT.

O skirt! beautiful skirt!  
Jerked thro' the dust and dragged thro' the dirt!  
Once you were white  
As the mantle of snow,  
As the leaves of the lily  
When Spring zephyrs blow;  
Soft to the touch and fair to the eye;  
Nest to the gaze of each passer by;  
Now tattered and spattered—  
Oh, pitious wrong!  
Beautiful skirt,  
They made you too long!

## NEVER ANTICIPATE.

I've received a billet-doux  
From my charming little Nell,  
With ink of finest blue—  
Here and there a blot or two—  
Lovely as a wild blue-bell.

Oh! my soul it feels as gay  
As a monarch dressed in samite;  
I will rise up right away,  
And I'll take her to the play;  
And I'll run the social gamut.

Stop! I haven't read the brief;  
But I know it's Nellie's certain—  
[To one hundredweight of beef,  
\$15. (Signed) O'Keefe,  
Butcher.] Thunderation! Curtain.  
—American Punch.

## MOCKERS, BEWARE!

The patient preacher plods along  
Through theology deep;  
The white the deacon, bless his soul,  
Bows down his head and sleeps.  
—Syracuse Times.

And when the preacher takes a rest  
From theology matter,  
The drowsy deacon rises up  
And passes round the platter.  
—Rome Sentinel.

And when at length he back returns  
From his collecting trip,  
From out his vest upon the plate  
He lays a poker clasp!  
—Cleveland Voice.

Oh, have your fun, ye poets bold,  
But just remember this:  
For all your jibes and wicked puns  
Ye'll on the griddle sear.  
—Portland Investigator.

## AN AUTUMN NIGHT.

A calm, delightful Autumn night—  
A moon's mysterious, golden light—  
A mansion at her window bright  
In robes of pure and fleecy white.

The little wicket gate ajar—  
A lover tripping from afar,  
With tuneful voice and light guitar,  
To woo his radiant guiding star.

A lute, with soft, insidious twang—  
Oh! how the dozing lover sang!  
A bulldog with remorseless fang—  
A nip, a grip, a deathly pang.

A maiden with a startled glance—  
A shrieking for deliverance—  
A kind of weird, hilarious dance—  
A pair of riven doekin pants.

A maiden fainting with fright—  
A fever in a sickening plight—  
A bulldog chuckling with delight—  
A wild, delicious Autumn night!

A WOMAN'S STRENGTH.—It is said that Edwin Booth was once playing Petruchio with an actress considerably larger than himself, and that he thought she let the whip go too readily, when, as Petruchio, he wrested it from the hand of Katherine. So, after the play was over, he said, "You must hold on to the whip with more firmness to-morrow night; grasp it as hard as you can; I'll get it away from you, never fear." The next performance of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" came, and the melancholy tragedian, who, for the nonce, was essaying comedy, attempted to take the instrument of flagellation from his female "support." It was no go. She held on to it with a grasp of iron, and the audience soon began to see the joke, and applauded the actress to the echo. Finally, out of pure good-nature, she unloosed her hold, and the play proceeded. When the curtain fell the actor had no advice to give. —New Age.

Very often there are funny things take place on railway trains, which never happen except when a lady is part and parcel of the fun. Without her what would we do? It is related that a few weeks since two French women were passengers on one of the local trains between Virginia City and Carson. They had with them, in a big tin cage, a parrot that annoyed every one with its constant squalling and gabble. Observing the unfriendly glances that were bestowed upon the bird, one of the women pulled down a cloth cover that was on the top of the cage. When the extinguisher was clapped upon the bird and it found itself in the dark, it growled out: "That's smart." The bird kept quiet for a few minutes, then yelled in its shrillest tones: "Look out, Sarah; he's going to kiss you!" The conductor, who happened to be in the car, said: "That parrot must be an old traveler on railroads. He seems to think we are passing through a tunnel."

A French gentleman, who supposed he had mastered the English language, was sadly puzzled one day when a friend looked at him and said: "How do you do?" "Do you?" "I mean how do you find yourself?" "Sair, I never loses myself." "But how do you feel?" "Smooth—you just feel me."

"My dear," said a husband to his wife, on observing red-striped stockings on his heir, "why have you made barber's poles of our child's legs?" "Because he is a little shaver," was the reply.

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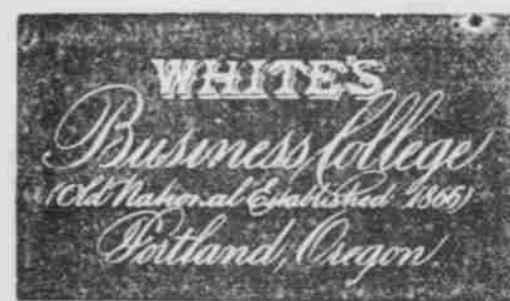
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